COTTON CHATS

FROM

DRAPER COMPANY

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JANUARY 19, 1892. APRIL 19, 1904

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MANUFACTURERS,
NEW YORK.

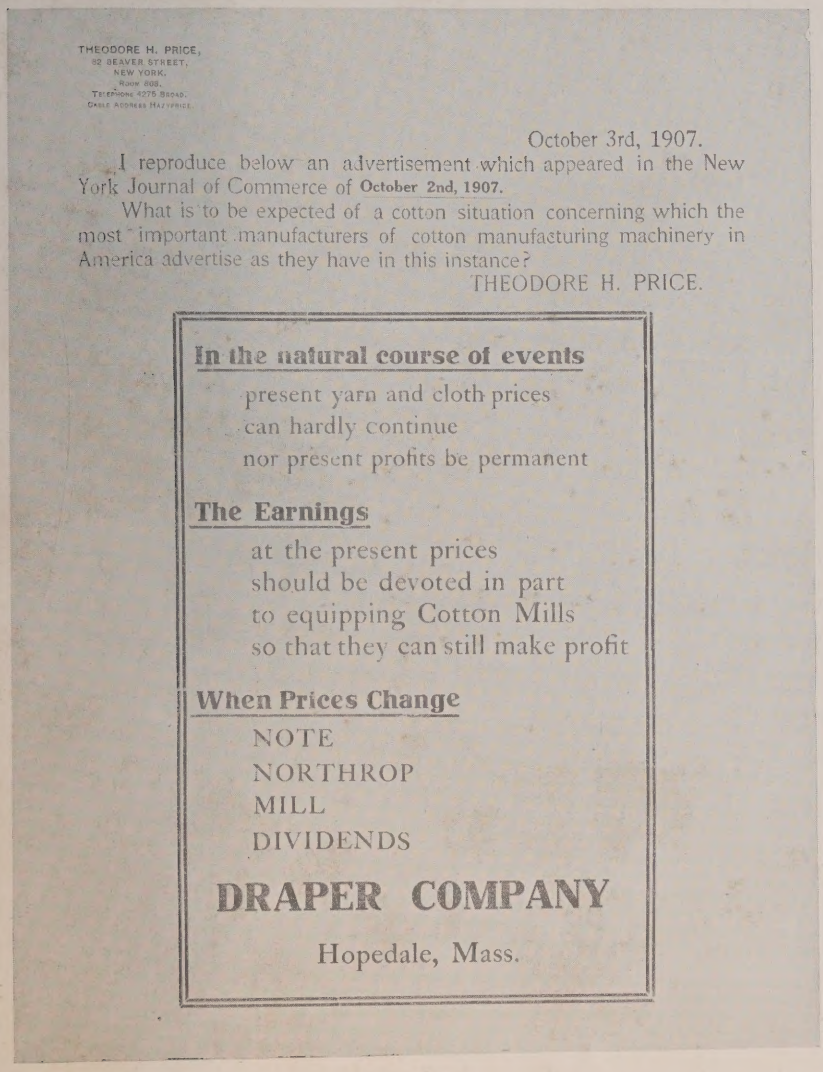
COTTON CHATS

By the secretary of the

DRAPER COMPANY,

HOPEDALE, MASS.

No. 67. NOVEMBER, 1907.



THEODORE H. PRICE,
82 BEAVER STREET,
NEW YORK.
ROOM 808.
TELEPHONE 4275 BROAD.
CABLE ADDRESS HAZYPRICE.

October 3rd, 1907.

I reproduce below an advertisement which appeared in the New York Journal of Commerce of **October 2nd, 1907.**

What is to be expected of a cotton situation concerning which the most important manufacturers of cotton manufacturing machinery in America advertise as they have in this instance?

THEODORE H. PRICE.

In the natural course of events

present yarn and cloth prices
can hardly continue
nor present profits be permanent

The Earnings

at the present prices
should be devoted in part
to equipping Cotton Mills
so that they can still make profit

When Prices Change

NOTE
NORTHROP
MILL
DIVIDENDS

DRAPER COMPANY

Hopedale, Mass.

PRICE'S PRICES.

The above reproduction of a letter, issued in rather large quantity by Mr. Theodore H. Price, may aid in giving prominence to our concern, but on careful analysis, hardly seems to warrant the interpretation suggested. The fact that we doubt if present prices for cotton goods can continue indefinitely, has no relation whatever to the market price of cotton itself, since cotton has often

sold higher than at present when the price for cotton goods was much lower than now. This does not mean that we may not get lower cotton prices; but we do not think our literature can be properly deciphered as indicating the future of this fluctuating commodity.

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At the Washington convention, a paper was read for Mr. Louis Simpson, of Valleyfield, Canada, submitting as axioms that automatic looms were not feasible for cop spun yarns, for yarns finer than 50's, or for goods where broken picks were undesirable. I personally commented on this paper, saying that Mr. Simpson was evidently speaking from his own experience in trying our looms on fine fabrics, although the Northrop looms in his mill were sold nine years ago and not intended for such fabrics. Mr. Simpson, in a reply to this criticism, explains that he has **not** tried to weave fine goods on Northrop looms. He says he fails to see why I should assume he **would** seek to manufacture such goods on these looms; but I gave him the benefit of supposing he was speaking from actual experience, rather than, as is proved by his own statement, relying on mere "hearsay" evidence. The real trouble appears to be that Mr. Simpson outlines axioms, without apparently realizing the dictionary definition of what an axiom is. We can easily give Mr. Simpson, or anyone else, examples of plenty of mills that are weaving on Northrop looms with finer counts, than he thinks practical; but in his present suspicious mood, he might insist on our proving to him that these mills **were making profit** by the weaving of such goods, requiring an inspection and analysis of private accounts which we are not authorized to make. It is sufficient for our purposes, to know that the Grosvenor Dale Company, one of the first to run fine counts on Northrop looms, filled their entire plant, after trial, now having 3,617 Northrop looms running. The Whitman Mills of New Bedford, have 829 Northrop looms, all of which are running on cop yarn counts finer than those advised by Mr. Simpson. The Burgess Mills, of Pawtucket, just starting, have 1294 Northrop looms running on fine counts, cop yarns. The list of mills matching the picks on Northrop looms is too lengthy to quote. Really, Mr. Simpson is asking us to prove what no one else knowingly questions.

The three weeks' tour of the foreign cotton spinners, ending in New York, Oct. 21st., was also enjoyed by a few American representatives fortunate enough to secure places. The itinerary included the conventions at Washington and Atlanta, and afforded the visitors a chance to inspect cotton fields, cotton gins, compresses, oil plants, warehouses, exchanges, and a few cotton mills. It was interesting to note the impressions received by these intelligent foreigners, and it would be foolish on our part to assume that their comments could not be of service to us, if we received them in a proper spirit. In general, it might be said that they were much more impressed with what Nature has done for us, than with what we have done with the resources that Nature has given us. Frankly, they do not think that we have much to teach them in the arts of spinning and weaving, and they severely criticised the cotton farming, the present baling system, and the wide market fluctuations in prices. They claim that they make equally good yarn with lower grades of cotton and less processes. They were surprised to find us using double-hank roving on numbers much below those for which they find it necessary. On the other hand, they admit that their frame-spinners rarely tend over 600 spindles, nor their weavers over 4 looms.

The wide difference in labor cost between our country and any foreign country, of course necessitates differences in the application of labor and the use of machinery. We necessarily attempt a great product per operative, and in the attempt to limit the necessity for labor from the operative, we use better quality and sometimes, lower speeds.

The visitors were certainly impressed with the marked spirit of cordiality with which they were received in all cities of the United States. It is doubtful if a commercial delegation of any nature ever received so continuous and elaborate a series of lunches, banquets and receptions.

The common criticism of the baling and handling of cotton suggested a repetition of a little verse popular at the late Philadelphia convention, sung to the familiar tune—"The little old red shawl:"

"Oh! that little old wet bale,
That short-weight cotton bale,
That rotten cotton, graded as dog-tailed.
It was tattered, it was torn,
For the bagging had been worn
By a dozen bales, before that bale was baled."

We note in an article quoted from the Cotton Factory Times, an English paper, extended comment on our Weaver's Seat, the writer being of that common type which cannot recognize the slightest merit in any novel suggestion, attempting to argue it out of existence from a limited experience with the conditions. He states: "*Pity the weavers are not born with wings. What is wrong with roller skates? A miniature motor car would not be out of place if the speed limit were abolished.*" Also, "*We do not think she (the weaver) could get about with greater facility on the proposed seat than by walking, and even if she could, the labour of pushing the seat along by the aid of one leg, or the action of the hands, would, in our opinion, be more exhausting than the walking required.*" Suppose this same authority had heard for the first time of the bicycle! Would not such objection be equally pertinent, and equally ridiculous? It is a well known fact, that men can transfer a given weight with greater ease on wheels than if carrying the same while on their feet. This applies equally well to the weight of the human body itself. In the days of horse cars, it was a common sight in our cities to see two horses pulling not only the heavy car itself, but a load often of 80 people, on a fairly stiff grade. The critic relies on that old argument, "*He does not think so.*" Such statements carry no weight, if not backed by arguments based on proved facts, or accepted theories. The writer shows such ignorance as to state that he understands the weaver on a Northrop loom does nothing but piece in warp, the other work being done by spare hands. The weavers on Northrop looms in this country, where the greater proportion of such looms are run, do **all the work,** as a rule, with the exception of cleaning and oiling their looms, and in some mills they also do this duty as well. They do not bring the filling to the looms, or take away the empty bobbins, or cop tubes; but they **do** put the cops, or bobbins, in the hopper, in the majority of instances.

The critic, in speaking of the article as referring to weavers putting the bobbins into hoppers, states he is afraid the writer of the original article, "*had no practical knowledge, or he would not put forward such a ridiculous idea, in so thoughtless and irresponsible a manner.*" Considering the fact that the writer of the original article was the first man, next to the inventor, who was acquainted with the preliminary inventions; also considering the fact that he has been intimately associated with the development, sale and use of the looms for some eighteen years, and has probably seen more of such looms in actual operation, at more times, than any other man living, outside his own Company, he is perfectly willing to still authorize the original statement.

This critic ends with: "*Will they say how much cheaper a yard of cloth, with identical particulars, can be manufactured under the Northrop principle and system than under the system and conditions of the ordinary modern power loom?*" It is strange that this expert does not remember, or know of, the investigation made by a party of his own countrymen, who journeyed to this country to determine that precise fact, and who were evidently so disconcerted by the actual facts that they decided not to give their authoritative decision to the public. Individual members of the pilgrimage, however, printed the results of their investigation in English papers, reporting that they found weavers running 20, 24 and 26 looms each, at a price per cut one-half, or less, than that paid on common looms. Cloth is often woven with an actual saving of 50% of the entire weaving room expense, repairs and supplies counted in. Some mills allow their weavers to make more money on Northrop looms, although their work may be actually less fatiguing, in order to overcome the prejudice against an innovation; but the machine, as a machine, is hardly responsible for such concessions.